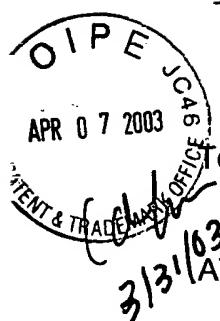


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TSMC00-488

March 31 2003



To: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTN: GROUP ART UNIT 2823 W. D. COLEMAN

FR: Stephen B. Ackerman Reg. No. 37761
28 Davis Avenue
Poughkeepsie
NY 12603

Subject:

Serial No. 09/863,223

05/24/01

"Prevention of post CMP defects
in Cu FSG process"

C-S Liu and S-L Shue

Grp. Art Unit : 2823 W. D. Coleman

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J. M. Chinnion
4/11/03

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RESPONSE TO PATENT OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31 2002, in the above identified application for patent, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 31 2003.

Name

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg #37761

Signature/Date

3/31/03